

REMARKS

Claims 1-54 and 56-79 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1-3, 26, 27, 40, 51, and 66 are amended by way of this Amendment. All pending claims 1-54 and 56-79, as amended, are believed to be allowable over the references cited by the Examiner as discussed below. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for the present application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner contends that other functions of Endick's controller such as the REPORT command issued by the microcontroller to a particular option in order to request an Option ID, Data Mask, or Function ID of the option (Col. 9, lines 1-10), amounts to the microcontroller independently controlling the options. The Examiner contends that in such an instance, "the microcontroller is directly controlling a device independently of the base telephone. Thus, ... the microcontroller can also perform independent control." However, in addition to arguments previously submitted, Applicants submit that the microcontroller of Endick does not control the option devices independent of the base telephone as recited in each of the independent claims. Rather, Endick's Option Processor transmits commands to the various options *only in response to* commands or requests from the base telephone or from the PBX, i.e., NOT independent.

The REPORT command that the Examiner references is one of the various commands in the command set (col. 8, line 48; also, examples of the command set at col. 8, line 48-col. 9, line 36).

The flow of commands, i.e., messages from the PBX to the telephone, are described with reference to FIGS. 6-8. FIG. 6 illustrates the flow of commands (messages from the PBX to the telephone) and events (messages from the telephone to the PBX) (col. 6, lines 28-46). As shown in FIG. 7, the flow of command messages is from the PBX to the high priority option, to the lower priority option, and finally to the remainder of the telephone and its associated microcontroller 118 (col. 6, lines 35-41 and col. 6, line 65-col. 7, line 10). As shown in FIG. 8, the flow of events messages is from the microcontroller 118 to the low priority option, to the high priority option, and finally to the PBX (col. 6, lines 42-46 and col. 7, lines 11-23). As described in the message sequence at col. 7, lines 24-55, the message transmitting a PBX request is relayed via the options by the option processor to the telephone base which responds (see col. 7, line 36) with the requested information. In other words, the option processor is serving the

function of relaying messages from other sources such as the PBX and not independently controlling or monitoring the options.

In particular, commands to the option processor may be without associated data, with associated data, or a request for data (col. 8, lines 41-46). The REPORT command is a request for data. As with all other commands, although a REPORT command may be issued by the option processor to request certain information from an option, the REPORT command is not issued on the microprocessor's own initiative, but rather, *in response to the PBX via the base telephone*. As such, the option processor is merely relaying messages from the PBX and is not independently controlling or monitoring the options. (See also col. 6, lines 50-52: "The Option Processor distributes messages to options and the Base Processor." Emphasis added)

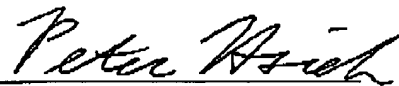
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 15, 26, 33, 40, 56, 66, 70, and 75 as well as claims dependent therefrom under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter accompanying this document is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136 and/or any other relief is required, Applicant hereby petitions for any required relief including Extensions of Time and/or any other relief and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-2315 (Order No. 01-3876).

Respectfully submitted,



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